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SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

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CURATORS

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MUSEUM

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WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY.

(TWELFTH OF PRINTED SERIES.)

MIDDLETOWN, CONN.:
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OFFICERS OF THE MUSEUM,

FOR THE YEAR 1887-8.

JOHN M. VAN VLECK, LL. D., - *Acting President of the University.*
WILLIAM NORTH RICE, PH. D., LL. D., - - *Professor of Geology.*
HERBERT W. CONN, PH. D., - - - *Associate Professor of Biology.*
JOHN L. TILTON, A. B., - - - *Assistant in Natural History.*

Seventeenth Annual Report.

To the Board of Trustees of Wesleyan University:

The officers of the Museum respectfully submit the following as their report for the year ending June 26, 1888.

The work necessary to care for the specimens has, of course, continued as usual. In addition to this work, several important changes have been made in the arrangement of the Museum, the object being to make the collections more available for class use and more instructive to all visitors.

The specimens forming the Lithological Collection, the Physical Geology Collection, and the Palæontological Collection had become so numerous that an almost complete re-arrangement was needed. During the year Professor Rice has made out plans for the re-arrangement of the first two collections mentioned, and, aided by the Assistant, has put these two collections in excellent order. In the Lithological case, the fine collection of New Hampshire rocks, numbering two hundred and fifty specimens, presented the Museum by C. W. Smiley, A. M., now occupies the first section upon the left. In the two other sections of the case, are the different classes of rocks arranged systematically; the second section being occupied by Crystalline Non-calcareous Rocks, arranged according to their chemical composition,—the most acidic (the quartzose rocks) being placed first, and the most basic (the olivine and serpentine rocks), last. The remaining section of the case is occupied by Fragmental Non-calcareous Rocks and by Calcareous Rocks, properly sub-divided.

The collection illustrating the geology of the Bermudas, made by Professor Rice in 1876–7, has been removed from the two

sections which it occupied in the Physical Geology case, and, with the exception of such specimens as were needed in the new arrangement, stored for future reference and for exchange. The case is now arranged in three departments illustrative of the three great classes of agencies: hypogean or igneous agencies, atmospheric and aqueous agencies, and organic agencies.

Labels to indicate the various subdivisions in these two collections have not yet been placed in the cases, though it is intended they shall be added as soon as convenient.

The fossils occupy all the remaining cases upon the same side of the main hall as the cases above mentioned. Hitherto the chronological classification of the fossils has not been carried to more minute divisions than the Periods of Geological Time, each of the eight cases representing a Period. Now the fossils of four of the Periods are divided to illustrate the main divisions of the Periods. The Silurian fossils are divided to illustrate the Primordial (or Cambrian) Epoch, the Lower Silurian (including the Canadian and Trenton Epochs), and the Upper Silurian (including the Niagara, Salina, Lower Helderberg, and Oriskany Epochs). The Devonian fossils are divided to illustrate the divisions known as the Lower Devonian (Corniferous Epoch), Middle Devonian (Hamilton Epoch), and Upper Devonian (Chemung and Catskill Epochs). The Carboniferous fossils are divided to illustrate the three Epochs of the Period: the Sub-carboniferous, the Carboniferous (proper), and the Permian. The Tertiary fossils are divided to illustrate the three Epochs of the Tertiary Period: the Eocene, Miocene, and Pliocene.

The different fossils of these sub-divisions of the Periods are arranged according to the Classes of Zoölogy. Each class is placed in a group separated from adjoining classes by black walnut strips, and is marked by a printed label giving the names of the Sub-kingdom and the Class. In quite a number of the classes, the specimens forming important sub-divisions in the classes are placed together and marked by special labels. This more minute classification is made especially in those groups

which are most numerously represented and are most characteristic of the different Periods; as, for instance, in Crinoids throughout the Paleozoic, Ferns of the Carboniferous, Cephalopods of the Jurassic, and Mammals of the Quaternary.

The fossils of some of the Epochs of the remaining four Periods (Triassic, Jurassic, Cretaceous, and Quaternary) are not yet represented in sufficient numbers to make an arrangement by Epochs desirable. They remain arranged by classes. The boundaries between the different classes are made more evident by the insertion of black walnut strips, and the fossils of important groups in the various classes are placed together and marked by special labels.

The printed labels formerly used in the collection of fossils and in the Zoölogical collection in the upper hall of the Museum, had become considerably discolored by time, and out of date in system of nomenclature. All these have been replaced by new printed labels. Other printed labels of a different style have also been obtained to mark the geological Epochs in the new arrangement.

On the upper floor of the Museum, the Synoptic Collection is now completed with the exception of the Sub-kingdom Vertebrata. This collection is of great value to the class in Zoölogy and to visitors interested in Zoölogy, since it gives at a glance the relation of the various parts of the animal kingdom.

Each of the Sub-kingdoms is illustrated by a tree-like diagram, the branches of which bear names giving the classification down to Orders according to most recent information, and the characteristics of the various Sub-kingdoms, Classes, and Orders. All the Orders are represented by specimens where it is advisable to use specimens, or by water-color drawings where the animals represented are too small to admit of exhibition in the case. These specimens and drawings are placed in groups around the tree-like diagrams, each group being near the part of the diagram the group is intended to illustrate. The arrangement is made still more evident by arrows which point from the lines on the diagram

to the groups of specimens. Each group is accompanied by a special label giving the Class and Order of the group, while each specimen in the group is accompanied by a label giving the genus, species, locality, and donor of the specimen. At the end of the case is a brief explanation giving all needed information concerning the general plan, to guide the student in studying the collection.

In this same hall the case containing the alcoholic collection of Mollusks, and one of the two cases of Reptiles, have been re-arranged.

During the year the Museum has received the six moth-proof tin boxes ordered last year and mentioned in the last report. The cost was forty-three dollars. The boxes were very much needed, for the numerous and valuable bird-skins in the possession of the Museum were stored a large part of the time where they were exposed to the attacks of insects. These skins are now arranged in trays within the boxes according to the order followed in Coues' "Key to North American Birds." The trays and boxes are labeled, and a catalogue of their contents is provided, so that a skin of any bird in the collection can be obtained at a moment's notice. The boxes are placed in the Biological Laboratory where they are handy for class use.

Among the accessions to the Museum, four are worthy of special mention.

Joseph S. Spinney has again laid the Museum under obligations to him by a donation, through Professor Van Benschoten, of thirty-nine aboriginal ornamental clay masks and busts from Cordova, Mexico.

Early in the fall term Professor Wm. H. Dall, Curator of the Tertiary and Recent Mollusca at the National Museum, Washington, D. C., came to look over our collection of shells to see if there were any which he wished for the National Museum. Our collection consists of ninety thousand specimens, representing about nine thousand species. Many of these shells are in the drawers of the table-cases for lack of room to exhibit them in

the cases. A large number of these shells are rare foreign shells that came in the Shurtleff Collection purchased when the Museum was first opened. From these shells he selected quite a large number for the National Museum, in exchange for which he sent over a thousand specimens of Tertiary and Quaternary shells, representing one hundred and forty species, forming a very desirable addition to our collection of Tertiary and Quaternary fossils. He also sent a set of printed labels for our collection of Unios, which is now not properly labeled.

As a part of a series of exchanges with the Smithsonian Institution, a large and quite good specimen of a Moose was received during the winter term. This specimen is especially valuable, because the Moose is so rapidly becoming extinct.

In the fall term Professor B. F. Sharpe, a graduate of Wesleyan University in the class of '87, now a professor at Randolph-Macon College, sent an order for fifty dollars' worth of specimens to use in his classes. The money obtained by this sale has been appropriated to the purchase of a collection of Blaschka's glass models. These will be life-like illustrations of various animals that cannot be well preserved. If another sale were made, or a donation of money were received, the money would be very profitably used to increase the number of mounted skeletons, of which the Museum is now in especial need.

APPENDIX.

List of Accessions.

Abercrombie, E. E.—Cistudo carolina and eggs, Æschna janata, and Chætura pelasgia.

Andrews, Geo. S.—Large Garnet, and large crystals of Feldspar.

Ashton, Peter H.—Fungus-growth from apple tree.

Barnhart, Rev. J. W.—A very fine specimen of Vanadinite.

Brown, H. C.—Arsenopyrite.

Camp, S. T.—Iridescent Coal.

Cassidy, W. M.—Orthoceras, Productus, and stems of Crinoids.

Clark, T. H.—Platyphyllum concavum.

Conn, Prof H. W.—Diapheromera femorata, and Chætura pelasgia.

Faber, F. B.—Five-cent pieces of first issue, 1883.

Farnam, E. B.—Phyrrhotite, Chalcopyrite, and Garnetiferous Hydro-mica Schist.

Gill, M. W.—Teleost Fish (Miocene).

Goss, W. S.—Belostoma haldimanum.

Hazen, L. R.—Desmocerus palliatus, and Lycosa fatifera with young.

Long, Michael.—Clay Concretions.

Meritt, A. H.—Various Insects, and Resurrection Plant.

Nourse, J. W.—Indian spear-heads.

Pickering, Hon. T. R.—Large Stalactites.

Rice, E. L.—Various Birds and Beetles.

Rice, Prof. W. N.—Geological specimens and minerals, and Formica pennsylvanica.

Rice, Prof. W. N. and Class.—Volcanic bombs and ashes from Berlin, Conn.; series illustrating formation at Westfield Falls, and various geological specimens and minerals.

Slater, O. J.—A specimen of Hyla from the West Indies.

Smithsonian Institution.—Alces malchis, and Tertiary and Quaternary Shells.

Spinney, Joseph S.—Aboriginal Clay Images from Mexico.

Tilton, J. L.—Various zoölogical and geological specimens.

Tilton, O. B.—Spongilla lacustris.

Walker, T.—Actias luna.

White and Deming.—Iridescent Coal.

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